THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

A MARVEL® COMICS EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

STRACZYNSKI

GARNEY

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THE WAR AT HOME

PART 6 OF 7

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DAILY BUGLE

25¢

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DAILY

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SPIDER-MAN/PARKER CHALLENGES REGISTRATION

LONG NIGHT?

YEP.

YEAH, ME TOO.

DAILY BUGLE

SPIDER-MAN/PARKER CHALLENGES REGISTRATION

YOU GET BORED ANYTIME, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME, SWEETS.

BORED IS NEVER A PROBLEM.

JUST SAYIN'.

BOOP-BEEP-BOOP-BOOP-BOOP

LUCILLE, IT'S HONEY. YOU KNOW HOW I SAID I WAS GONNA STAY IN THIS UNTIL I COULD GET ONE BIG PAYDAY AND GET THE HELL OUTTA TURNING TRICKS?

WELL, I THINK I GOT SOMETHIN' GONNA PAY THE WAY OUT THE DOOR FOR *BOTH* OF US.

"WE HAVE TO FIND HIM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE."

BECAUSE AFTER THAT LITTLE STUNT LAST NIGHT, STARK WILL DO EVERY-THING IN HIS POWER TO TAKE PETER DOWN. I KNOW HE'S TRYING TO KEEP THE HEAT OFF US BY KEEPING HIS DISTANCE, BUT AT LEAST HERE THERE'S A CHANCE FOR US TO PROTECT HIM.

WE'RE NOT GONNA HAVE MUCH TIME. STARK WILL TURN THIS WHOLE CITY UPSIDE DOWN TO FIND PETER, AND WE DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE *NEAR* HIS RESOURCES.

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

FLAME ON!

I KNOW.

THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU OUT THERE. I KNOW IT MEANS PUTTING YOU AT RISK AS WELL, BUT--

DON'T WORRY.

Okay, I've got several ways to go after Peter...sources I can check, old haunts where I know he used to hang out.

Just have to get his attention.

"WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE TOAST, PETER?"

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MOTEL

NO VACANCY

NO, THANKS, AUNT MAY. I'VE HAD PLENTY.

SO WHAT'S THE AGENDA FOR TODAY?

LAY LOW UNTIL NIGHTFALL. TRY NOT TO ATTRACT ANY ATTENTION.

THAT MAY NOT BE AN OPTION, PETER.

WHY NOT?

COME TAKE A LOOK.

OH.

PLANET HOLLWOOD

"NOW *THAT'S* WHAT I CALL SENDING AN INSTANT MESSAGE."

"I TAKE IT YOU RECEIVED MY MESSAGE, MR. FISK?"

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I DID. THIS HAD BETTER BE GOOD. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GET MY DAILY MASSAGE.

I THINK YOU WILL FIND THIS OF *GREAT* INTEREST, MR. FISK.

WE HAVE LOCATED THE INDIVIDUAL OF WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN PREVIOUSLY. I KNOW THAT, AS AN HONEST BUSINESSMAN, YOU WISH THIS PERSON TO RECEIVE THE BONUS HE IS LONG OVERDUE--

--SO I WANTED TO CHECK WITH YOU TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT YOU STILL WANTED HIM TO GET WHAT'S COMING TO HIM.

+2

ABSOLUTELY. I WANT HIM TO GET NOTHING BUT THE VERY BEST.

AND I WANT IT DONE IMMEDIATELY-- TODAY, IF POSSIBLE. WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANY TIME IN CASE HE MOVES.

I WANT THIS DELIVERED TO HIS ADDRESS, AND I WANT IT TO BE A COMPLETE SURPRISE. THE KIND OF SURPRISE THAT JUST CAN'T MISS.

CONSIDER IT DONE, MR. FISK.

JUST ONE LAST THING. IF HE *DOES* MOVE ON BEFORE WE CAN DELIVER THE PACKAGE...WHAT THEN?

THEN DELIVER THE PACKAGE TO ANYONE AT HOME WHO CAN ACCEPT IT.

ANYONE?

PIG25

ANYONE.

BECAUSE IN THE END, AS WITH *ALL* GIFTS... IT'S THE *THOUGHT* THAT COUNTS, ISN'T IT?

SO YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR HIM?

I'M GOING.

YOU REALIZE THIS COULD BE A TRAP.

THE THOUGHT HAD OCCURRED TO ME.

BUT YOU TRUST HIM.

THIS ISN'T A TIME FOR TRUST.

THEN WHY GO?

BECAUSE THIS ISN'T A MATTER OF TRUST.

COULD STARK THINK OF ASKING PETER TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS JUST SO HE COULD GET CLOSE TO US AND SET US UP?

ABSOLUTELY.

WOULD PETER GO ALONG WITH IT?

MAYBE.

BUT I'VE WORKED WITH PETER, AND THE THING ABOUT HIM IS THAT HE'S THE WORST LIAR I'VE EVER SEEN. HE HAS TOO MUCH RESPECT FOR THE TRUTH, SO WHEN HE LIES, IT SHOWS.

AND WHAT I SAW ON HIS FACE LAST NIGHT WAS THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH.

I'M NOT ARGUING.

BUT IT'S *JUST* AS POSSIBLE THAT STARK ***MANEUVERED*** PARKER INTO THIS POSITION, SO HE'D DO ***EXACTLY*** WHAT HE'S DOING.

THAT HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH AS HE SEES IT DOESN'T MEAN HE ISN'T BEING *USED*.

AND IF HE'S BEING *USED*, THEN YOU'RE BEING *USED*...AND THAT'S DANGEROUS.

IT'S *POSSIBLE*, STEVE...

"...AND YOU KNOW IT'S POSSIBLE."

THAT WAS A VERY BRAVE THING YOU DID.

THANKS.

FOOLISH, BUT BRAVE.

SO IT WAS THE WRONG THING TO DO?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. BUT IT DOES PUT YOU AT EVEN GREATER RISK.

I HAD TO GET A MESSAGE OUT, TO THE PEOPLE, SO THEY'D UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON.

EXCEPT, OF COURSE, THAT THE MEDIA IGNORED EVERY-THING ABOUT THE PRISON, AND SPENT ALL THEIR TIME TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU WERE CHALLENGING THE GOVERNMENT.

THEY'VE GOT YOU PEGGED AS A BENEDICT ARNOLD AND A TRAITOR TO THE AMERICAN CAUSE.

THEY'VE BEEN SAYING WORSE ABOUT YOU LATELY.

I KNOW.

SO HOW DO *YOU* DEAL WITH IT?

I'VE SEEN THAT LOOK BEFORE... YOU'VE GOT A STORY, DON'T YOU?

PETER--

C'MON, GRAMPA STEVE... TELL US A STORY.

WHEN THE WHOLE *COUNTRY* IS AGAINST YOU...WHEN IT'S ALL BEARING DOWN ON YOU LIKE SOME KIND OF TEN-TON WEIGHT, AND YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN HEART ANYMORE SOMETIMES--

--HOW DOES SOMEONE LIKE *YOU* DEAL WITH IT? I MEAN, YOU PRACTICALLY *ARE* THE COUNTRY.

HOW DOES THE MAN WHO IS THE COUNTRY REACT WHEN THE COUNTRY GOES A DIFFERENT WAY?

YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW, CAP--

I *NEED* TO KNOW.

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I REALLY *UNDERSTOOD* WHAT IT WAS TO BE AN AMERICAN...WHAT IT WAS TO BE A PATRIOT.

"I WAS JUST A KID...A MILLION YEARS AGO, IT SEEMS SOMETIMES. MAYBE TWELVE. I WAS READING MARK TWAIN.

SAMUEL CLEMENS

"AND HE WROTE SOMETHING THAT STRUCK ME RIGHT DOWN TO MY CORE...SOMETHING SO POWERFUL, SO *TRUE*, THAT IT CHANGED MY LIFE. I MEMORIZED IT SO I COULD REPEAT IT TO MYSELF, OVER AND OVER ACROSS THE YEARS. HE WROTE--

"IN A REPUBLIC, WHO IS *'THE COUNTRY?'*

SAM CLE

"IS IT THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS FOR THE MOMENT IN THE SADDLE? WHY, THE GOVERNMENT IS MERELY A TEMPORARY SERVANT; IT CANNOT BE ITS PREROGATIVE TO DETERMINE WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG, AND DECIDE WHO IS A PATRIOT AND WHO ISN'T. ITS FUNCTION IS TO OBEY ORDERS, NOT ORIGINATE THEM.

"WHO, THEN, IS 'THE COUNTRY?' IS IT THE NEWSPAPER? IS IT THE PULPIT? WHY, THESE ARE MERE PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, NOT THE WHOLE OF IT; THEY HAVE NOT COMMAND, THEY HAVE ONLY THEIR LITTLE SHARE IN THE COMMAND.

"IN A MONARCHY, THE KING AND HIS FAMILY ARE THE COUNTRY; IN A REPUBLIC, IT IS THE COMMON VOICE OF THE PEOPLE. EACH OF YOU, FOR HIMSELF, BY HIMSELF AND ON HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY, MUST SPEAK.

"IT IS A SOLEMN AND WEIGHTY RESPONSIBILITY, AND NOT LIGHTLY TO BE FLUNG ASIDE AT THE BULLYING OF PULPIT, PRESS, GOVERNMENT, OR THE EMPTY CATCHPHRASES OF POLITICIANS.

"EACH MUST FOR HIMSELF ALONE DECIDE WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG, AND WHICH COURSE IS PATRIOTIC AND WHICH ISN'T. YOU CANNOT SHIRK THIS AND BE A MAN.

"TO DECIDE IT AGAINST YOUR CONVICTIONS IS TO BE AN UNQUALIFIED AND INEXCUSABLE TRAITOR, BOTH TO YOURSELF AND TO YOUR COUNTRY, LET MEN LABEL YOU AS THEY MAY.

"IF YOU ALONE OF ALL THE NATION SHALL DECIDE ONE WAY, AND THAT WAY BE THE RIGHT WAY ACCORDING TO YOUR CONVICTIONS OF THE RIGHT, YOU HAVE DONE YOUR DUTY BY YOURSELF AND BY YOUR COUNTRY. HOLD UP YOUR HEAD. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF."

DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE PRESS SAYS. DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE POLITICIANS OR THE MOBS SAY. DOESN'T MATTER IF THE WHOLE *COUNTRY* DECIDES THAT SOMETHING *WRONG* IS SOMETHING *RIGHT*.

THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED ON ONE PRINCIPLE ABOVE ALL ELSE: THE REQUIREMENT THAT WE STAND UP FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE, NO MATTER THE ODDS OR THE CONSEQUENCES.

WHEN THE MOB AND THE PRESS AND THE WHOLE *WORLD* TELL YOU TO MOVE, YOUR JOB IS TO PLANT YOURSELF LIKE A TREE BESIDE THE RIVER OF TRUTH, AND TELL THE WHOLE *WORLD*--

--"NO, YOU MOVE."

CAN I, LIKE, CARRY YOUR BOOKS TO SCHOOL?

FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?

COME ON... TIME TO GET YOU BACK TO THE REST OF THE GROUP.

I MEAN IT.

I CAN GIVE YOU MY LUNCH. MY AUNT MADE TUNA SANDWICHES.

AGAIN.

And as I run toward the edge of the roof, off the edge of what I've known and into the darkness of whatever's coming, beside the one hero who will never betray his convictions, never betray those who followed him, I think--

--it feels good to be on the right side again.

YOU'VE GOT AN ADDRESS?

THE ADDRESS, AND YOUR FEE, ARE BOTH IN THE ENVELOPE.

MY CLIENT WISHES TO REINFORCE THAT YOU WILL ONLY HAVE, AT BEST, ONE SHOT AT THE PRIMARY TARGET, SO MAKE THE BEST OF IT.

AND THE SECONDARY TARGETS?

AMUSE YOURSELF.

DEALER'S CHOICE. IF HE'S GONE, THEY REALLY DON'T MATTER. BUT IF YOU CAN'T ACQUIRE THE PRIMARY--

UNDERSTOOD.

ONE OTHER THING. THE TARGET HAS A TENDENCY TO SENSE DANGER WHEN IT'S COMING. THIS MAY COMPLICATE THE JOB.

NOT A PROBLEM. I'VE COME ACROSS THAT SORT OF THING BEFORE. I HAVE A LITTLE SOLUTION TO THAT PROBLEM.

IT'S CALLED SLEEPING ON THE JOB. IT'S ONE OF MY TWO TRADE SECRETS.

YEAH? WHAT'S THE OTHER?

NEVER LEAVE A DIRECT CONNECTION TO A JOB ALIVE TO TESTIFY AGAINST YOU.

WHUD!- WHUD!- WHUD!

I DON'T LIKE IT...HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BACK BY NOW, HE--

KNOK KNOK

YES?

JUST CHECKING TO SEE IF YOU NEEDED ANY FRESH TOWELS, MA'AM.

NO, WE'RE FINE, THANKS.

OKAY, MA'AM, THANKS. GOOD NIGHT.

GOOD NIGHT.

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MOTEL

THE HITMEN

"YOU DID A VERY BRAVE THING, PETER."

I MEAN, IT TAKES A LOT OF COURAGE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT SOMETHING AFTER GOING SO FAR DOWN THE ROAD. SAYING "I WAS WRONG," HAS TO BE THE HARDEST SENTENCE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

ACTUALLY, THE HARDEST SENTENCE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS, *"WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MY WIFE?"* THERE'S NEVER A REALLY GOOD ANSWER TO THAT ONE.

YOU'VE COME AT A GOOD TIME, PETER. WE'RE MOVING TOWARD A FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH TONY'S FORCES. WE COULD USE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.

WELL, I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN. BUT IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'VE GOT IT COVERED.

I HOPE SO. WHEN YOU GO INTO BATTLE, THERE ARE THREE ELEMENTS TO PLANNING OUT THE ENGAGEMENT. YOU HAVE TO BE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW, AND YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW.

SO WHAT'S NUMBER THREE?

THREE'S THE DIFFICULT PART. BECAUSE THERE ARE ALWAYS SOME THINGS THAT YOU DON'T ***KNOW*** YOU DON'T KNOW. AND THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT CAN GET YOU KILLED.

"WE KNOW TONY'S RESOURCES, HIS NUMBERS, AND THANKS TO YOU, HIS STRATEGY. WE KNOW A ***LOT*** ABOUT WHAT'S COMING."

KNOWING SO MUCH JUST MAKES ME ALL THE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS THAT WE DON'T KNOW.

I THINK YOU'RE WORRYING TOO MUCH. YOU'RE THE BEST TACTICAL BRAIN ON THE PLANET--

"--I'M SURE THERE'S NOTHING YOU LEFT OUT OF THE EQUATION."

TO BE CONTINUED...

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